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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/091,932	03/06/2002	Eric Bloedorn	2471.2001-001	7060
21005	7590	09/22/2004	EXAMINER	
HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.			BLACK, LINH	
530 VIRGINIA ROAD			ART UNIT	
P.O. BOX 9133			PAPER NUMBER	
CONCORD, MA 01742-9133			2177	

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/091,932	BLOEDORN, ERIC	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LINH BLACK	2177	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liddy et al. (USP 6026388), and further in view of Almog et al. (USPAP 2002/0002479).

1. As per independent claims 1 and 9, Liddy et al. teach:

accessing documents/files/records from the database for evaluation; and

evaluating a match between the two records as a weighted match between each of a plurality of available fields – col. 25, lines 14-37; col. 26, lines 14-26.

such that a matching process is selected as appropriate from among a group of matching processes including strict Boolean, ordinal, and vector-based matching processes; wherein when a strict Boolean matching process is selected, applying a match function as an exact match test – col. 17, line 4; col. 19, table 5; col. 20, line 47 to col. 21, line 6.

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when an ordinal matching process is selected, applying a match function that makes use of information concerning the size and ordering of the data domain – col. 34, line 15-44.

when a vector-based matching process is selected applying a match function that uses a vector space frequency test – col. 15, lines 9-18; col. 23, lines 19-29; col. 25, lines 13-37.

However, Liddy et al. do not explicitly suggest two of the records. Almog et al. teach accessing two of the records from the database for evaluation; and evaluating a match between the two records as a weighted match between each of a plurality of available fields – paragraphs 0018, 0037, 0110, 0121, and 0122. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Almog et al.'s teaching with Liddy et al. teaching in order to allow users to retrieve matched records.

2. As per claims 2 and 10, Liddy et al. teach:

wherein the step of evaluating a match between the two records comprises applying the matching process to determine a match score for two corresponding fields of the plurality of available fields, the two corresponding fields selected from corresponding locations in each of the two records – col. 20, line 47 to col. 21, line 60; col. 23, lines 19-28; col. 24, lines 10-19 and 53-60.

3. As per claims 3 and 11, Liddy et al. teach:

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wherein the step of evaluating a match between the two records comprises selecting the matching process based on a common data type shared by both of two fields of the plurality of available fields accessed in the two records – col. 5, lines 29-36; col. 9, lines 9-11; col. 15, line 62 to col. 16, line 1; col. 31, lines 2-23.

4. As per claims 4 and 12, Liddy et al. teach:

wherein when a Boolean matching process is selected, the data type of both of the two fields specifies nominal data – col. 18, lines 36-47; col. 20, line 47 to col. 21, line 6; col. 34, lines 28-44.

5. As per claims 5 and 13, Liddy et al. teach:

wherein when an ordinal matching process is selected, the data type of both of the two fields specifies data capable of being ordered – col. 3, line 63 to col. 4, line 14; col. 21, lines 20-60; col. 24, lines 11-19.

6. As per claims 6 and 14, Liddy et al. teach:

when a vector-based matching process is selected, the data type of both of the two fields specifies text data - col. 15, lines 9-18; col. 23, lines 19-29; col. 25, lines 13-37.

7. Claims 8 and 16 are are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Liddy et al. (USP 6026388), Almog et al. (USPAP

2002/0002479), and further in view of Kawamura et al. (USP 5778388).

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8. As per claims 8 and 16, Liddy et al. and Almog et al. do not explicitly suggest wherein the database is a relational database, the records are tuples. However, Kawamura et al. teach hierarchical resources in relational database, and tuples are rows/records, and synchronization of databases – col. 1, lines 13-34. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use relational database with tables of records to compare fields to efficiently and sufficiently compare fields/columns/attributes between records.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LINH BLACK whose telephone number is 703-305-0317. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN BREENE can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Linh Black

September 17, 2004

LINH BLACK
Examiner
Art Unit 2177

Alford W. Kindred
Alford W. Kindred